

OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS: ECONOMIC VITALITY

ALIGNING BOARD PRIORITIES WITH OPTIMIZED RESOURCES

PEOPLE FOCUSED. PERFORMANCE DRIVEN.

Mission Statement

To guide the County's economic development efforts, in coordination with the private sector and community stakeholders, by fostering fair and open competition, conducting extensive outreach to assist vendors in navigating and competing in today's marketplace, and leveraging existing resources to maximize the infusion of financial capital into the local community.

Strategic Initiatives/Support Highlights

Economy

- Coordinated the expansion of Entrepreneur Month for November 2014 to stimulate greater community participation and support beyond the universities.
- Supported Domi Station, a business incubator to house and provide business support services to start-up ventures.
- Promoted collaboration and communication through a "Town and Gown" partnership with Florida State University, Florida A&M University, Tallahassee Community College, and the City of Tallahassee.
- Supported the Alliance of Entrepreneur Resource Organizations (AERO), a coalition of public agencies and community nonprofit organizations united to provide current and new businesses with resources to aid in their success.
- Supported Project Gold, an international research and development facility, which would create 10 new research and development positions and will increase tourism through hosting an average of 10 domestic and international clients on a weekly basis.

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ADVOCATING FOR LEON COUNTY'S ECONOMIC INTERESTS

- Leon County continues to focus on job creation and investment in the community:
 - Created 781 jobs through capital infrastructure improvement projects, including transportation and storm water improvements.
- Leon County has invested more than \$20.4 million in the Frenchtown/ Southside Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) and the Downtown CRA to revitalize the downtown and areas to the north and south of downtown. Construction of the Aloft Hotel, the Alliance Center, Cascades Park, and the trail along FAMU Way were funded in part through these CRAs, as is the new construction surrounding the Gaines Street District, including: College Town (a mix of apartments, entertainment and retail); The Deck (apartments and street-level retail); and The District and The Catalyst (both student apartments).
- Following voter approval of the penny sales tax extension, Leon County will be investing 12% (an estimated \$90.7 million over 20 years) of the penny sales tax revenue in economic development projects.
- In partnership with Leon County Government, Domi Station celebrated their

first year of success as a business incubator and co-working space at the Leon County Historic Amtrak Station Complex, which offers opportunities for entrepreneurs of all ages.

- Leon County hosted the 2014 Emonth Closeout and Stakeholder Forum, serving as an entrepreneurial catalyst by hosting this meeting of investors, inventors, entrepreneurs, economic development professionals, and university officials to identify the next steps for our community to continue to promote and develop our growing entrepreneurial ecosystem.



LEON WORKS Helps Define Your Own Success

Seven years from now, over 10,000 new jobs will be available in the Leon County region that require more than a high school diploma but less than a four-year college degree. To address the need, Leon County Government is hosting the Leon Works Expo to connect the community, employers, academic institutions, and students. In the morning, the Expo will be open to students who will learn from local success stories while also visiting with employers. Later in the day, the Expo will be open to everyone in the community who may be seeking a career change, new opportunities, or has yet to find the career that best fits them.



- In order to promote awareness on skilled workforce needs, Leon County and its partners are planning the Leon Works Expo to bring together institutions of higher learning, students, employers, and other job seekers. The Expo will provide high school students and the community an opportunity to learn about skilled careers and vocational training available locally as participants seek to define their own success.

Capital Projects and Job Creation (FY15 & FY16)

Over the past several years, the Board has taken strategic steps to focus resources on maintaining jobs, investing in the community, and creating local infrastructure improvements. These steps include committing \$85.8 million towards the following capital projects:

Project Categories	Project Costs	Jobs Created
Culture & Recreation	\$10,797,050	99
General Government	\$12,366,094	114
Health & Safety	\$7,635,990	70
Physical Environment	\$17,545,356	161
Transportation	\$36,584,120	337
Total FY14 & FY15 Projected Spending	\$84,928,610	781